

The Southeast News

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 6

APRIL 1965



Central Congregational Church

Atlanta, Georgia

Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, Pastor

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION ISSUE

Thirteenth Annual Meeting

April 24-25, 1965



Rev. Dr. Ben Mohr Herbster United Church President

The Rev. Dr. Ben Mohr Herbster, New York City, is president of the two-million member United Church of Christ.

Dr. Herbster was elected president of the United Church at its constituting synod in July, 1961. Until the constitution was declared in force the United Church was headed by co-presidents appointed by the uniting bodies. Dr. Herbster had served as co-chairman of the Executive Council and a member of the committee which drafted the denomination's constitution.

Before his election as chief executive of the United Church, Dr. Herbster was pastor of Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church, Norwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, from 1931 to 1961.

Born in Prospect, Ohio, Dr. Herbster is a graduate of Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, and Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo. He did graduate work at Ohio State University, McCormick Theological Seminary and Chicago Theological Seminary.

He has been awarded honorary degrees by Heidelberg College (1944), Talladega College (1962), Elmhurst College (1962), Franklin and Marshall College (1962), and Lakeland College (1963).

Dr. and Mrs. Herbster have two daughters, Mrs. Marcus Buehrer and Mrs. Roger Liston, both of Dayton, Ohio. They have six grandchildren.

Report Of Christian Education Committee

As has been the custom in the past, the Christian Education Committee is divided into the following three sub-committees:

Leadership Training

Mrs. W. Raymond Berry, Chairman
Mrs. Edward L. Askren, Jr.
Mrs. Dewey Terry
Mr. Winston Noble

Youth Work

Rev. William R. Winterbottom,
Chairman
Mrs. J. Kermit Harris
Mrs. Paul A. McCallum

Summer Camps

Mrs. Carl N. Sanford, Chairman
Rev. Annie R. Campbell
Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn

The Leadership Training Committee has primary responsibility for work with the Christian Education Associates, who are available to the churches to help in the training of teachers and to introduce materials and promote the new United Church curriculum.

A three-day workshop to study the second year courses of the new curriculum was held for the CEA's last July 8-10 at Huntsville, Alabama. Another workshop will be held in the next few months.

The Youth Work Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Southeast Convention Pilgrim/Youth Fellowship. In addition it usually consults with the convention Minister of Christian Education on matters relating to the total youth program. The annual meeting of the convention Pilgrim/Youth Fellowship was held in Chattanooga, Tenn., March 20-21.

The Summer Camp Committee is charged with the responsibility of planning the camping program for the convention. This year two junior high and two senior high camps will be held.

Kentucky-Tennessee

June 13-19 Junior High and Senior High Summer Camps. Harrison Bay State Park (about 20 miles northeast of Chattanooga on Highway 58).

Ga.-S. C. — Ala.-N. W. Fla.

August 1-7 Junior High and Senior High Summer Camps. Laura Walker State Park, Waycross, Ga.

The churches are urged to promote and support the summer camp program.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert W. Hendrix, Chairman



Church Vocations Leader Will Address Convention

The Rev. George Nishimoto, New York City, Secretary for Church Vocations of the United Church of Christ, is one of the guest speakers for the convention.

On Saturday morning he will address the delegates and visitors to the convention. He will preach at the regular Sunday morning service of First Congregational Church, Atlanta. Dr. Homer C. McEwen is the pastor of First Church. On Sunday afternoon Mr. Nishimoto will meet with the Senior Pilgrim Fellowships of the United Church congregations in Atlanta.

Mr. Nishimoto's special concern is the encouragement of young men and women who are considering the church as their life work.

He was called to his post with the United Church's Council for Church and Ministry on October 1, 1963 from Christ Congregational Church, Chicago. He was vice-president of the Federation of Chicago and a member of the advisory board of the city's Commission on Human Relations.

Born in San Francisco, California, January 24, 1916, Mr. Nishimoto is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley (A. B. 1940); Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri, (B. D. 1945) and McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, where in 1950 he took his Master's degree in Church Social Work.

Mr. Nishimoto and his wife, the former Toshi Takeshita, have two sons John Mark and Peter.

Proposed Agreement For Formation Of United Church Conference

The proposed Agreement for the Formation of a United Church Conference has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention and is submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Convention with the recommendation that it be adopted and the applications for membership by the various bodies involved be accepted.

THE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, THE SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia for the general purpose of promoting the interests and general welfare of the congregations and ministers of which it is composed, and

WHEREAS, THE ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE, THE GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE and THE TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY CONFERENCE are conferences of the CONVENTION OF THE SOUTH OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, INC., organized and existing for the general purpose of promoting the interests and general welfare of the congregations and ministers of which they are composed, and

WHEREAS, THE ALABAMA-TENNESSEE REGION OF EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCHES was organized and exists for the general purpose of promoting the interests and general welfare of the congregations and ministers of which it is composed, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has been formed pursuant to the Basis of Union with Interpretations and is a union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church without break in their respective historic continuities, and

WHEREAS, the SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, the ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI, GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA and TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY CONFERENCES of the CONVENTION OF THE SOUTH OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, and the ALABAMA-TENNESSEE REGION of the SOUTH INDIANA SYNOD OF EVANGELICAL AND RE-

FORMED CHURCHES have approved the aforesaid union, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ did on July 4, 1961, adopt a constitution describing the free and voluntary relationships which the local churches, associations, conferences and ministers sustain with the General Synod of the United Church of Christ and with each other and recommended such pattern of relationships and procedures to the local churches, associations, conferences and ministers to the end that they might more effectively accomplish their tasks, and

WHEREAS, under the aforesaid constitution it is contemplated that synods, conferences, and associations of the uniting communions shall reorganize,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein, the ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE of CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, the GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE of CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, the TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY CONFERENCE of CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES and the ALABAMA-TENNESSEE REGION OF EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCHES do apply for membership as associations in the SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, INC., and the SOUTHEAST CONVENTION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES, INC., does agree to receive them upon the following terms and conditions:

CONDITION 1. This action is taken for the express purpose of forming the SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST in accordance with the constitution of the United Church of Christ.

CONDITION 2. The Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches agrees to amend its charter to become the SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE of the UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST as soon as possible after the effective date of this agreement.

CONDITION 3. Each of the new associations shall be represented on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc., by its moderator and one (1) representative-at-large

until such time as other provision is made for the composition of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

CONDITION 4. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention following the effective date of this agreement a committee representative of the parties to this agreement shall be appointed by the Board of Directors to prepare amendments to the present constitution and by-laws of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches, Inc., to be submitted to the next annual meeting of the Southeast Convention.

CONDITION 5. Nothing in the Constitution or By-Laws of this Conference shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the Conference now or at any future time the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any local church in the management of its own affairs.

CONDITION 6. The effective date of this agreement shall be January 1, 1966.

This agreement is the work of the committee composed of representatives of the Southeast Convention, the Convention of the South and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches of the Alabama-Tennessee Region. Members of the committee are:

Alabama-Tennessee Region:

Rev. George Hewson, Birmingham
(Rev. Eugene Bickel, Nashville)
Mr. Herman Liechty, Belvidere
Mr. Hubert Richter, Cullman

Convention of the South:

Rev. John T. Enwright, Charleston
Rev. Harold D. Long, Birmingham
Rev. Homer C. McEwen, Atlanta
Rev. John C. Mickel, Memphis

Southeast Convention:

Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, Evarts, Ky.
Rev. Raymond Berry, Huntsville
Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Phenix City

(Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, Nashville)
Rev. J. Kermi Harris, Columbus
Mr. W. Pressley Ingram, Birmingham

Mr. Odell Yancey, Langdale

Conference Executives:

President, Harry W. Bredeweg
Supt. J. Taylor Stanley
Supt. J. H. Lightbourne, Jr.

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STAFF

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Superintendent's Report

Some statistical information about the number of churches, members and ministers in the convention is included in the reports of the committees on the Church and Ministry and on Evangelism. There are, however, other items which are deserving of attention.

The convention reported a total of 105 churches to the Year Book Department as of December 31, 1964. Four of the churches are inactive.

As of December 31, 1964, there were 75 pastors serving 90 churches. Eleven churches were without pastors and, of course, 4 were inactive.

The churches reported \$381,327 for regular current operating expenses and \$89,440 for capital payments and improvements. The total spent locally is \$470,767.

\$32,118 was contributed to Our Christian World Mission. The total benevolent giving was \$40,515. This is not a record of which to be proud. The OCWM contributions were less than 10% of the regular current expenses. The total benevolent giving was less than 10% of the total local expenses.

As a matter of fact, only 60 churches in the convention contributed to Our Christian World Mission. This means that 45 churches did not share in our Program of Progress and in the support of our national boards and agencies.

Of the churches in the convention, 70 have standing in the United Church of Christ. Fifteen congregations have voted not to be a part of the United Church of Christ. Twenty churches have abstained from making a final decision on whether to join the United Church.

Southeast Convention Financial Statement

January 1 - December 31, 1964

RECEIPTS

Budgeted Receipts

Board for Homeland Ministries Subsidy	\$ 4,833.00	
Miscellaneous	2,782.16	7,615.16

Our Christian World Mission Receipts

Central Alabama Association	1,112.50	
East Alabama Association	7,830.51	
North Alabama Association	3,253.57	
S. Alabama-N. W. Florida Association	440.88	
Georgia-South Carolina Conference	11,765.23	
Kentucky-Tennessee Conference	7,546.09	
Other	125.00	

32,073.78

39,688.94

Total Budgeted Receipts

Unbudgeted Receipts

Board for Homeland Ministries (Church Aid, Etc.)	17,937.50	
For Christian Higher Education Fund	516.70	
For Southern Union College	1,608.41	
Family Thank Offering	1,479.58	
Miscellaneous	4,533.10	

Total Unbudgeted Receipts

26,075.29

TOTAL RECEIPTS

65,764.23

DISBURSEMENTS

Budgeted Disbursement

Salaries and Annuities	12,290.00	
Office (Rent, Equipment, etc.)	1,437.20	
Supplies and Materials	1,298.44	
The Southeast News	1,283.19	
Organization (Board, Committees, etc.)	1,349.53	
Travel (Supt., Special)	5,025.81	
Parsonage (Note, Ins., Maintenance)	2,043.42	
Miscellaneous	1,574.64	
Church Aid	6,360.86	
National Boards and Agencies	8,018.45	

Total Budgeted Disbursements

40,681.54

Unbudgeted Disbursements

To Churches, etc., from Board for Homeland Ministries	18,262.39	
Christian Higher Ed. Fund (National)	516.70	
Southern Union College	1,653.41	
Family Thank Offering (to National Boards)	918.75	
Miscellaneous	2,847.00	

Total Unbudgeted Disbursements

24,198.25

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS

64,879.79

RECAPITULATION

Total Receipts 1964	65,764.23	
Total Disbursements 1964	64,879.79	
Balance	884.44	
Beginning Balance 1964		
Restricted	2,928.27	
Regular	1,327.85	
Total		4,256.12
Balance December 31, 1964		
Restricted	3,204.07	
Regular	2,590.57	
Total		5,794.64

Respectfully submitted,
W. J. Strickland, Treasurer



E. DALE PEAK

Air Line Executive Is Active Churchman

E. Dale Peak, Chairman of the National Churchmen's Fellowship and a member of the Council for Lay Life and Work of the United Church of Christ, will speak at the joint Women's Fellowship and Churchmen's Fellowship banquet on Saturday night at the annual convention meeting.

A resident of Holladay, Utah, Mr. Peak is Manager of Customer Services for United Airlines in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Active in church and civic affairs, he is a member of the National Committee of the Boy Scouts of America; member of the Board of Trustees of Westminster College in Salt Lake City; a member of the Board of the YMCA and Campus Ministry at the University of Utah; member of the Board for Campfire Girls; chairman of the Governor's Prayer Breakfasts; member of State Aeronautics Advisory Council and Chairman of the Utah Council for International Contact.

A member of the Holladay Community Church (United Church of Christ), he has also been president of the Salt Lake City Council of Churches and the Utah Council of Churches.

During World War II Mr. Peake enlisted in the Marines as a private. Serving in the Far East, he was awarded Battle Star for action in the Solomon Islands.

He was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1914. In 1935 he married United

The Report From The Churchmen's Fellowship

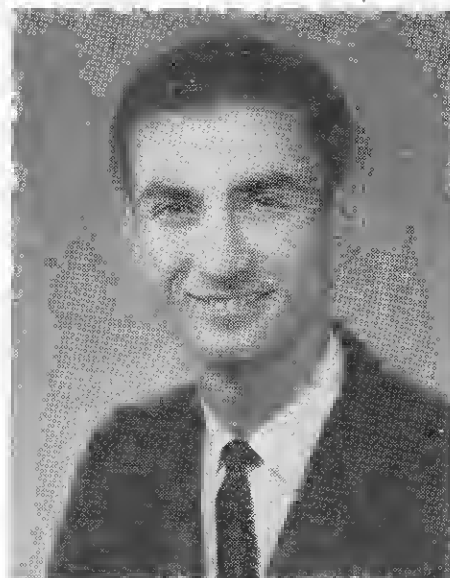
The past year has been a significant one for the Southeast Convention Churchmen's Fellowship in several ways.

A periodic "Newsletter" was started last summer and has continued until the present time. Seven issues have been published to date and over three thousand copies have been distributed to the churches of the Convention. Many churches of the Convention have requested copies of the "newsletter" for every man in the church. Every church in the Convention receives at least two copies of the "Newsletter." Currently, over 600 copies of each issue are mailed to our churches.

The purpose of the "Newsletter" has been to bring timely and challenging articles to the attention of the men of the Convention; report on the activities of local Fellowship groups; keep local groups informed about Convention and National Fellowship activities; advise of program materials that are available; and encourage a favorable vote on re-alignment at the 1965 Annual Conference.

One new Association-wide Churchmen's Fellowship was established this year. On March 13, 1965, laymen of the Central Association (Alabama) met at the United Congregational Church of Montgomery to organize the Central Association Churchmen's Fellowship. A second meeting is scheduled for May 29 at Mount Olive Church in Tallassee. Officers will be elected at that time. Association Churchmen's Fellowships presently exist in the East Alabama Association (this group includes some churches in West Georgia), and among the churches of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. Association Churchmen's Fellowships should be established in the North and South Alabama Associations and throughout the state of Georgia. It is hoped that these Fellowships can become a reality in 1965.

The importance of the local Churchmen's Fellowship has been emphasized this past year. A questionnaire was sent out in September 1964 to all churches of the Convention to determine the number of local Fellowships



MILLARD FULLER

in the various churches. Only fourteen churches replied and, of this number, eight indicated an active Churchmen's Fellowship. This led to the conclusion that our organization on the local level is very weak. More emphasis will be placed on the local Fellowship this year. We are starting the ball rolling by having a panel discussion for the men at the Southeast Convention meeting on the subject, "The Relevance of the Churchmen's Fellowship To Our Local Church Program." A committee will be set up at the Convention meeting to work with local groups seeking to establish local Fellowships.

When elected president of the Convention Churchmen's Fellowship last April, I pledged my full support of re-alignment of the Convention. Throughout the year I have contacted many people personally on this matter. I have made speeches encouraging a favorable vote. I have written articles in the "Newsletter" pointing out the need for realignment. And, I have written letters to laymen and ministers throughout the Convention urging a favorable vote. Again, in this report I would like to say to the men of the Convention that we **must** vote for re-alignment. To do otherwise is to throw cold water on all our future hopes as a Convention and as a Churchmen's Fellowship. Every convention in the country — except ours — has either realigned or has made definite steps toward realignment.

Respectfully submitted,
Millard Fuller, President

Air Lines stewardess Shirley Potter. They have three sons, Dana, Michael, and Gary, and one daughter, Kathleen, and five grandchildren.

**Thirteenth Annual Meeting
Southeast Convention Of Congregational
Christian Churches, Inc.**

(An Acting Conference of the United Church of Christ)

Central Congregational Church

Atlanta, Georgia

April 24-25, 1965

PROGRAM

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

- 10:30 A. M. Call to Order: Rev. Harold C. Henderson, Moderator
The Morning Devotions
- 10:45 Welcome: Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, Host Pastor
Response: Rev. Harold C. Henderson, Moderator
Recognition of Fraternal Delegates and Visitors
Presentation of the Minutes of the 1964 Annual Meeting: Mrs. A. D. Harry, Recording Secretary
Presentation of Suggested Rules for Proceedings of the Annual Meeting
The Appointment of Committees
Business Committee
Resolutions Committee
Memorial Committee
Place Committee
The Presentation of the Financial Statement:
Mr. W. J. Strickland, Treasurer
The Report of the Moderator: Rev. Harold C. Henderson
The Report of the Christian Education Committee:
Rev. Robert W. Hendrix, Chairman
The Report of the Committee on Church and Ministry:
Rev. W. Raymond Berry, Chairman
The Report of the Committee on Evangelism:
Rev. L. Floyd Carmack
The Report of the Committee on Survey and Church Aid:
Rev. R. Hugh Lasseter, Chairman
The Report of the Committee on Christian Social Action:
Rev. J. Kermit Harris
- 11:45 Address: Rev. George Nishimoto, Church Vacations Secretary,
United Church of Christ Council for Church and Ministry
- 12:30 Recess for Lunch

AFTERNOON

- 1:30 P. M. Call to Order: Rev. Harold C. Henderson, Moderator
The Afternoon Devotions
- 1:45 The Report of the Committee on Stewardship and Missionary
Education: Rev. Charles W. Bell, Chairman
- The Report of the Nominating Committee:
Rev. L. Floyd Carmack, Chairman
- The Southern Union College:
Dr. Walter A. Graham, President
- 2:15 Address: Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster, President of the United
Church of Christ
- 3:00 Hymn
- The Report of the Superintendent: Rev. James H. Lightbourne, Jr.
- The Presentation of the Proposed Agreement for the Formation of a
United Church Conference: Rev. W. Raymond Berry, Chairman
- The Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws
- 5:00 Recess
- 7:00 Banquet: Central Congregational Church
- Speaker: E. Dale Peak, Chairman, Churchmen's Fellowship
Department of the United Church of Christ
- Separate Meetings of the Women's and Churchmen's Fellowships will
follow the Banquet

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

- 9:00 A. M. Call to Order: Rev. Harold C. Henderson, Moderator
- The Invocation
- The Report of the Women's Fellowship:
Mrs. Edward L. Askren, Jr., President
- The Report of the Pilgrim Fellowship:
Jimmy Lightbourne, President
- The Report of the Churchmen's Fellowship:
Millard Fuller, President
- The Report of the Congregational Christian Foundation:
Rev. Arnold Slater, Chairman
- 9:45 The Election of Officers
- Other Business
- The Report of the Place Committee
- The Report of the Resolutions Committee
- The Memorial Silence and Prayer
- 10:10 THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB
Rev. Bill Hodnett, President
- 10:45 Adjournment of the Meeting of the Church Builders Club
- 11:00 Service of Worship: Conducted by Rev. Frederick A. Meyer
Sermon: Rev. Dr. Ben M. Herbster
- Communion Service and Installation of Officers
- The Convention stands adjourned following the Service of Worship

Report From The Southeast PF-YF

Approximately 200 young people, adult advisors and ministers attended the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention Pilgrim/Youth Fellowship held on Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.

As the president it was my privilege and responsibility to preside over the sessions.

The main address in the morning was given by Mr. Millard Fuller, president of Fuller and Dees Marketing Group, Inc., of Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Fuller is a member of the United Church, Montgomery, a past president of the Southeast Convention Pilgrim Fellowship and is currently president of the convention Churchmen's Fellowship. He spoke on the theme "Christianity and Your Vocation."

Lee Harris and I, who attended as representatives of the SEC PF/YF, reported on the Youth Forum of the United Church of Christ, which was held last summer in Washington, D. C.

In the afternoon Rev. Scott S. Libbey, secretary for the Youth Ministry of the United Church of Christ, addressed the gathering on the convention theme, "The Church — Relevant or Irrelevant." Following his challenging speech small groups were formed to discuss the subject.

The banquet on Saturday night was a fine occasion for fellowship and entertainment.

The Rev. Arnold Slater, host pastor, conducted the communion service and the service of installation for the new officers on Sunday morning.

For the first time in our history there were fraternal delegates from the young people of the Convention of the South (the Negro Congregational Christian young people) present at the sessions.

The following officers and chairmen were elected:

President — Lee Harris, Columbus
Vice-President — Jane Maddox, Langdale

Corresponding Secretary — Kibby Simmons, Atlanta

Recording Secretary — Beverly McAdams, Montgomery

Treasurer — Jeff Carstens, Atlanta
Faith Chairman — Brian Kinch, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Fellowship Chairman — Mike Dol-

The Report Of The Women's Fellowship

The year 1964-1965 for the Women's Fellowship of the Southeast Convention has been one of "trying our wings" in learning to be mature Christians in a rapidly changing world.

Following the two fine training workshops for lay men and women leaders on convention and state levels, each state decided to train its own leaders in the way best suited to its needs.

Georgia elected to have a Visiting Program in central areas where three or more churches could come together to learn how to use PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES and to become better acquainted.

As a result, two such visitations took place with eight churches meeting in LaGrange and six at Waycross. Both men and women participated in the LaGrange meeting.

Both leaders and participants felt that such meetings were of great value. It is regrettable that distances are so great and time is not available for more of these visits.

Alabama continued to have a summer Retreat, using PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES for study, worship and exploration.

The South Alabama-N. W. Florida Association had an excellent Laity Workshop in the fall, with six churches participating.

East Alabama held the usual Fall and Spring meetings.

Kentucky-Tennessee held a Laity Workshop in June with both men and women in attendance.

Involvement in what it really means to be a church member in Mission was stimulated by the use of the pamphlet, "Salty Christians." Bible Study has also been emphasized with the sheet, "Did Anybody Bring a Bible?", used as a study guide.

In August a letter went out from the Executive Committee members to all the member churches in the Southeast Convention. This letter was sent to give a message of encouragement to women's groups and to learn something of the progress being made in program planning and training for leadership. As yet only two responses

lar, Lanett

Action Chairman — Carolyn Feazel, Birmingham.

Respectfully submitted,
Jimmy Lightbourne, President



MRS. LAURA M. ASKREN

have come in. This emphasizes the great need in our area for a field staff person who can travel from community to community.

In June your president attended the Lay Life and Work Assembly in Elmhurst, Illinois, where lay leaders from all 50 states were in attendance. A sentence from the call to this Assembly stays with me. It is this:

"All of us must recognize our partnership with God in His work of creation and in the realization of God's purpose for the whole human family."

I want to thank the Women's Fellowship for the opportunity for having served in a small way as your leader. More time needs to be given if we are to meet the challenge.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura M. Askren, President

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bank Balance 4/14/64 \$252.23

RECEIPTS

Alabama Women's Fellowship

State Exp. Money 125.50

TOTAL \$377.73

DISBURSEMENTS

Workshop Expense:

Miss Dora C. Brackin 7.00

Mrs. Edw. L. Askren, Jr. 2.75

Mrs. Edward M. Brown 2.75

Office Expense:

Mrs. Edw. L. Askren, Jr. 10.00

Travel Expense:

Mrs. Edw. L. Askren, Jr. 116.00

(to Elmhurst, Ill.)

Service Charge to Bank .50

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$139.00

Bank Balance 3/15/65 \$238.73

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Claud Pendergrass

The Report Of The Evangelism Committee

During the past year the churches of the convention received a total of 506 persons into their membership. Of these 232 were by confession of faith and 374 were by transfer of membership from another church.

At the same time the churches lost 681 members by transfer, death and other causes. This means that there was a net loss of 175 members for the year.

The reported membership of the 105 churches of the convention now stands at 8,379. The number of churches and the total membership has been steadily declining for a number of years.

The 1954 Year Book reported a total of 119 churches with a membership of 9,682.

These figures clearly indicate two major concerns.

First, because of population trends and because the majority of the churches of the convention are located in small towns and rural areas, it is obvious that some of the presently existing churches will not be able to survive. Therefore, we must be concerned to start more new congregations in centers of population in the southeast.

Second, even though population trends indicate many churches located in small towns and rural areas can expect to lose members, the fact still remains that in most of our communities there are people who still are unchurched. Therefore, our churches must be alert to their evangelical opportunities.

Too often we end up debating the methods we should use to win members rather than concentrating on the task itself. In this regard certain things should be obvious. If your church is gaining in membership through the evangelistic program it uses, it should be concerned to improve the program, but it certainly shouldn't simply drop it. However, if your church is not gaining in membership, it should examine its program and determine how to do a more effective job.

Your committee on Evangelism stands ready to help the churches. It can provide helpful literature and guides and find the answers to your questions. Please call on us.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Floyd Carmack, Chm.

Report Of Committee Ministry And Churches

The Convocation of United Church ministers was held at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, November 30 - December 2, 1964, with Dr. Harold H. Wilke, director of the United Church Council for Church and Ministry, as the main leader. Dr. Homer McEwen, pastor of First Congregational Church, Atlanta, and a member of the faculty of the Center, gave a series of lectures on some of the leading theologians and their influence in our present day. The evenings were devoted to informal programs, folk songs, a presentation of some of Dr. McEwen's poetry, and evening worship.

Dr. Harold Wilke returned to the area in February to direct a consultation on the program and services of the Council for Church and Ministry. He was joined by two others of the staff, Rev. George Nishimoto, Church Vocations Secretary, and Rev. Leon Dickinson, Chaplains Secretary. Matters pertaining to the training of ministers, financial assistance to ministerial students, ordination, transfer of ministerial standing, ministerial placement and other items were discussed.

The consultation was attended by representatives of the Florida Conference, the South Central Conference, the Southern Synod, the Convention of the South, the Southern Convention and the Southeast Convention.

Representing the Southeast Convention were, in addition to your chairman and Supt. Lightbourne, Rev. W. W. Hall, East Alabama, Rev. William Winterbottom, Kentucky - Tennessee, and Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, Georgia-South Carolina.

It is planned that this meeting be followed up by more specific recommendations relating to ministerial training, assistance to students, ministerial standards and transfers from one conference to another within the United Church of Christ. More information on this will be forthcoming.

At the present time there are 103 ordained ministers with full standing in the convention. Ninety-five are enrolled in the United Church of Christ and 8 have Congregational Christian standing only.

There are 6 ministers with conference ordination, 15 Licentiates and 1 ministerial prospect in care of Asso-

ciation.

Seven ministers of other denominations and three lay ministers serve churches in the convention.

Of the 103 ordained ministers, 56 are serving churches and 17 are retired. Ten are engaged in direct religious work. Eight are in educational work and the remaining 12 are in business and other professions.

This year the following ordained ministers were received into the convention: Henry F. Ackerman, Chaplain, Ft. Benning, Ga.; William A. Charland, professor, Clark College, Atlanta; Jesse H. Dollar, Pastor-at-Large, East Alabama Association, Roanoke, Alabama; George P. Dominick, Chaplain, Georgian Clinic, Atlanta; Wendell E. Hines, Brookmeade United Church, Nashville; W. Millard Stevens, First Church, Knoxville; John C. Willey, Interim Pastor, Pleasant Hill, Tenn.

Other new pastors serving a church in the convention are: Dan M. Atkinson, LaGrange College student, Jones Chapel, Woodbury, Ga.; Rev. W. C. Bryant, retired Methodist minister, Russell Woods, Phenix City, Ala.; B. F. Doggett, now licensed by the East Alabama Association and serving Todd Church, Shawmut, Alabama; Esco E. McBay, Methodist ministerial student serving Garden City, Alabama.

During the year Melvin R. Fenner transferred to Florida; Clyde C. Flannery transferred to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

It is with a sense of sorrow that the deaths of the following ministers are reported: Rev. William W. Elder, retired Naval Chaplain and minister of Concord, Ga.; Rev. William Kendrick Grobel, professor at the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University; Rev. Ira J. Robinson, pastor of Pyron's Chapel, Baker, Fla., and New Effort Church, Bonifay, Fla.; Rev. Claude W. Warren, retired minister serving as chaplain of Pilgrim House Retirement Center, LaGrange, Ill.

The 1965 United Church Minister's Convocation will be held early in December. Details will be announced at a later date. The churches are urged to encourage their ministers to attend and to make it financially possible for them to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Raymond Berry, Chm.

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Report Of The Moderator To The Annual Meeting

It has been a wonderful experience for me to serve as moderator of the Southeast Convention for the past year. I want to thank each of you for making it possible for me to serve in this capacity. We so often emphasize the responsibilities of positions in the service of the church and overlook the benefits of these positions. One of the benefits for me has been to see more clearly the efficient way in which the Convention operates. I have always had deep respect and admiration for our Superintendent, but since serving with him I am amazed at the accomplishments he makes under a tremendous work load and in such a variety of circumstances. Also, the tireless work of our Convention secretary, Mrs. McCord, cannot go unnoticed.

It is not often that opportunity knocks twice, but this is the case for us in the Southeast Convention. Last year we defeated by a small margin the proposal to form a United Church Conference in the Southeast area. This year at our annual meeting we will have the opportunity to again consider this proposal. The Board of Directors of the Convention has recommended approval of this proposal, and every person in the Convention has had the opportunity to study for a year just what is involved in the realignment proposal. If this proposal is approved at the annual meeting, then I personally believe we will have a successful year and we will have a bright future in the service of Christ in this area. If the proposal is defeated, not only will I be disappointed, but many people's faith in the ability of the Convention to be a relevant organization for the service of Christ will be severely shaken.

I have attended several meetings which go along with being moderator and feel that the Convention has moved ahead during this year, maybe in spite of the inadequacies of the moderator. I have every confidence in the future of the Convention because I have confidence in the Christian commitment of the people who compose the Convention. For that reason, your commitment to Christ and the Christian Way, I look forward with eagerness to the approval of the realignment proposal and the establishment of a United Church Conference

Report Of Committee Survey And Church Aid

The Survey and Church Aid Committee of the Southeast Convention met in the convention office on Monday, January 25, 1965. The Committee discussed the church aid program for 1965 and developed the following schedule of aid for the churches of the convention for 1965. This recommendation was submitted to the Board of Directors and was approved as follows:

NATIONAL PROJECTS		BHM
Robbins Parish		\$4,000.
N. Ala. Pastor-at-Large		900.
JOINT PROJECTS		SEC BHM
Charleston, Circular	500.	1,250.
Huntsville, United	700.	3,500.
Montgomery, United	1,300	5,000.
Nashville, Brookmeade	1,000.	1,000.
CONVENTION PROJECTS		
Caddo, First	240.	
Brantley, Indian Creek	100.	
Brantley, Liberty	100.	
Haleyville, Union Grove	150.	
Columbus, First	600.	
TRAVEL AID		
Rev. Homer Barnes	36.	
Rev. R. M. Waugh	100.	
UNDESIGNATED	1,274.	
CONTINGENCY	1,000.	
TOTAL	7,500.	16,050.
GRAND TOTAL	\$23,550	

We are happy to report that our new churches in Montgomery and Huntsville are continuing to make steady progress and are growing. The last report we have for 1964 showed that the Montgomery Church had a membership of 34. The Huntsville Church reported a membership of 73 with a Church School enrollment of 154.

The Survey and Church Aid Committee has been engaged in a survey of a new development some 30 miles south of Atlanta called "Bonanza". This is to be a self-contained city and at this time there seems to be a good possibility that we may be able to secure the first church site in this project. The chairman of the convention committee and the superintendent of the convention visited the project with Rev. J. Edmund Lippy, Secretary for New Church Development Department of the United Church of Christ.

in the Southeast.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold C. Henderson, Moderator



Rev. Frederick A. Meyer

Convention Host Pastor

Rev. Frederick A. Meyer came to the pastorate of Central Congregational Church in January of 1962.

He is a native of New York City and holds degrees in Arts and Divinity from Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

He has served previous pastorates in Newport, Vermont; Rockville Centre, N. Y., and Mayflower Community Church in Minneapolis, Minn. He was Central Regional Director for the Christian Higher Education Fund for three years.

Rev. Lippy expressed enthusiasm for the possibilities in the project. At a later date, Mr. August Burchardt, Secretary, Church Building Department, Division of Church Extension, was able to go with us to Bonanza and he also expressed interest in the project on the part of the Church Building Department of the United Church.

The committee is in the process of preparing a study of the project for presentation to the Board for Homeland Ministries with a request for aid in purchasing property for a new church in Bonanza.

All members of the convention are urged to notify the Survey and Church Aid Committee of prospective new areas for church extension in your own community.

Prepared for the Committee,
R. Hugh Lasseter, Chairman

A Report By The President Of Southern Union College

The fact that our college became a part of the Alabama System of Colleges is well known to most of our friends and former supporters.

The name has not changed nor has the interest and concern for students, regardless of academic ability or financial standing.

The registration at each quarter of this year has far exceeded that of former years, 240 being enrolled for each of the fall and winter quarters. The Spring quarter is being registered as this report is written.

The state has made abundant provisions for salaries, building, and utilities. The State has no funds for scholarships, athletics, or any kind of extra-curricular activities. These must be raised as in past years.

A debate team has been organized this year and it has brought deserved recognition to the members, coach and the school. It has won several honors and trophies. Reverend Wayne Boulware is our debate coach.

The Bisons had only a fair year in basketball activities. The baseball, tennis, and golf teams are now hard at work and are looking forward to a good season. The coach of all teams is Mr. William Ragle.

The Southern Union Singers have made less non-college appearances than usual but under the direction of Miss Catherine Spalding have brought musical joy to all who have heard them.

The chairman of the newly authorized Advisory Board is Mr. Leon Phillips, president of the Bank of Wadley and a member of the former Board of Trustees. There is also to be created a Scholarship Committee of representatives in the various towns which the college serves.

The enrollment for next year looks exceptionally good at this time, registrar, Mrs. Maxine Jackson, and recruiter, Mr. John Carmichael, both believing on the basis of the present requests that the figure will exceed 300.

Our thanks are extended to all who have helped in the past and most especially for those who are continuing their scholarship contributions. Our students are the most important phase of the college work, and many cannot attend college without scholarship aid. With our thanks, we urge you to con-

Committee On Stewardship And Missionary Education

Following the resignation of the committee's elected chairman, the Rev. George W. Stowe, I was appointed chairman. We will miss the leadership of Mr. Stowe, who has accepted a church in Florida.

We are fortunate to have the regional secretary of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ available to give us counsel and guidance. Rev. Karlton C. Johnson has already proven his willingness to help. He has the experience and ability to make the mission of the church come alive to each of us that we will better understand just what is meant by the Mission of Christ's Church. We are indebted to him for his assistance.

Stewardship and Missionary Education is a vital part of the total work of the church. How well our churches respond as stewards of His and to the call of Our Christian World Mission will determine in a large measure as to where the church will face up to the challenge of our contemporary world.

"The world in its interests, motivations, satisfactions, and energies has pulled away from the Christian center. On the other hand, the church, at least large sectors of it, has closed itself off from the world, although infiltrated by the spirit of the world. Consequently, it is not exercising an influence relative to its strength or the claim it makes for the gospel.

God is working out His will in the world. He is Lord not only of creation but of history. He calls the church to have done with lesser things and to join Him in engaging the world where the real needs are. These needs spell out the church's unparalleled opportunity for witness and service in the world. It is only as the church answers this call and opportunity that the church itself can be renewed and have a great access of strength for its task.

The present is a time of acute testing and decision for the church, including the United Church of Christ. Unless the church becomes more authentically and specifically the instru-

ment of God's purpose in the world, it may lose its true meaning and power.

In order to fit itself and be equipped for mission, the local church must be challenged to examine and evaluate its present ways to see if they be those of the servant church.

To meet this challenge, the Stewardship Council is planning an EVERY CHURCH VISIT this fall. This is not only a challenge to every local church. It is a challenge to every member of our fellowship. A challenge to meet the needs that have been thrust upon us by our revolutionary world. How well the Church meets these needs will be determined by the response you and I give as His stewards.

The Conference and Association committees will be called upon to participate in the EVERY CHURCH VISIT. The plans for the ECV will be given to all the local chairmen. So join with me in seeing that it will be a job well done.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter A. Graham, President

Congregational Christian Foundation Report

The Congregational Christian Foundation is affiliated with the Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville.

In the early days of our church fellowship we had a Seminary in Atlanta but when it became an economic hardship to support our own institution in the late 1920s we moved to Nashville.

The Foundation has every reason to be proud of its record. Many of our ministers in the Southeast and, indeed, in all parts of the United States, were given financial assistance as divinity students doing graduate work at Vanderbilt.

At present serious consideration is being given to the matter of enlistment and preparation of the future ministers in the Southeast. It is possible that new approaches to this important aspect of our ministerial program may have to be considered. In the meantime, the Congregational Foundation needs your support. Those of us most involved wish to express appreciation to all of you through the years who have rendered support for the training of our ministers.

Respectfully submitted,
Arnold Slater, Chairman

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Respectfully submitted,
Charles W. Bell, Chairman

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